

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: March 10, 2011

**SUBJECT: Los Angeles County Juvenile Halls
Determination of Suitability**

AGENDA ITEM: I

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

RESOURCE PERSON: Field Representative Toni Gardner

Summary:

This agenda item is before the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) Board for a determination of the suitability of Los Angeles County's Central, Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf juvenile halls. It was continued to this date by Board action at its September 9, 2010 meeting.

The CSA is mandated by Section 209, Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) to biennially inspect all juvenile halls and special purpose juvenile halls. Title 15 Section 1313, California Code of Regulations (CCR) further mandates each facility administrator to obtain local specialized inspections including building safety, nutrition, fire safety, medical and mental health conditions. Per Health and Safety Code, Section 101045, the local health officer is responsible for conducting health inspections of local facilities. These inspections are conducted by local experts and are incorporated in CSA's overall inspection product. In the event a juvenile hall or special purpose juvenile hall is found out of compliance with one or more of the minimum standards for juvenile facilities contained within Titles 15 or 24, California Code of Regulations, the probation department is required to file a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) within 60 days of having received notice from CSA of noncompliance. If any of the issues of noncompliance are not resolved within 90 days of submission of the CAP, CSA is to make a determination of suitability at its next scheduled meeting.

Los Angeles County's Central, Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls failed to resolve nutritional noncompliance issues cited by Los Angeles County Public Health Department within the time frame specified in WIC §209(d) and appeared at the September 9, 2010 Board meeting for a determination of suitability. After hearing a status report from Los Angeles County Public Health inspectors Philip Dao and Scott Kirk, Los Angeles County Chief Probation Officer Donald Blevins and Los Angeles County Probation Nutritional Consultant Stephanie Sasnauskus, the board continued the determination of suitability to today's meeting.

Background:

During the 2008-2010 CSA biennial inspection of the Central, Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf juvenile halls, each facility was found out of compliance with Title 15 sections 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463 and 1464 relating to nutrition. All were multi-year violations. Attachment "A" summarizes the portions of each regulation where the facilities were noncompliant and the inspector's comments regarding the noncompliance.

The CSA inspection letter was mailed on January 25, 2010, informing the department of the areas of noncompliance and establishing March 31, 2010 as the deadline for providing a CAP to address the deficiencies identified during the inspection. The CAP was received by CSA on that date and

contained matrices for each facility, outlining steps that had been taken toward achieving compliance. The letter and attachments were reviewed by CSA staff and filed as the Corrective Action Plan as required by Section 209 (d), WIC. That code section authorizes the CSA to approve the CAP and monitor the facility to ensure completion of the plan within 90 days. The close of the timeframe for the resolution of items outlined in the CAP was June 29, 2010.

A key piece of the CAP was the recruitment and hiring of a Registered Dietician to serve as the department's nutritional consultant. Upon her hiring on June 1, 2010, work immediately began to correct the nutritional deficiencies. However, implementation of all corrections was not accomplished by the conclusion of the 90 day period and the matter of the determination of suitability was heard at the September 9, 2010 CSA Board meeting. Following the presentation on the progress made toward correction, the CSA Board continued the determination of suitability for six months to allow full implementation of the revised menus and food service plan and to obtain required medical approval for therapeutic diets.

CSA staff have had ongoing communication with staff from both the probation and public health departments. Ms. Sasnauskus regularly shares details of progress toward completion as well as anticipated delays, including budgetary limitations which have slowed implementation of the revised menus. As of the date of this writing, full implementation has yet to be achieved, but progress continues to be made. For example, training has been conducted for food service staff on the new food service plan. The plan however, is not yet in official use as it lacks a critical approval and signature. Approval of the new therapeutic diet manual by the "responsible physician" is also lacking. CSA staff last met with Mr. Dao and Mr. Kirk on February 10, 2011. They are aware of the progress made and delays in implementation and, as of our meeting date, confirmed that outstanding areas of noncompliance have not been fully corrected. The status of correction of the areas of noncompliance are also included in Attachment A. CSA staff anticipate that they will be able to report further progress by today's meeting date.

Recommendation/Action Needed: Staff recommends that the CSA Board make a determination of suitability for the Los Angeles County Central, Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls.